

Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-8 (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A data-class recommender, comprising:

a learning engine;

a user interface device operably coupled to the learning engine;

the learning engine being operably coupled to a data source containing descriptions of data selections;

the learning engine being programmed to:

receive, through the user interface device, feedback from a first user evaluating the data selections;

progressively generate a description of data selections that are favored and disfavored by the first user based on the feedback, thereby generating a first user profile; generate recommendations of data selections for the first user responsively to the first user profile; and

selectively generate recommendations of data selections for the first user responsively to the first user profile and at least a second user profile of a second user;

wherein

the learning engine is programmed such that the first user profile includes

a narrow-specialized description defining only target data selections that are favored by the first user, and

a broad-generalized description defining non-target-only data selections that have not been disfavored by the first user,

the recommendations being derived from a space of data selections lying between the broad-and-narrow-generalized and specialized descriptions.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The recommender of claim 9, wherein
the learning engine is programmed to:

compare a level of narrowness in the narrow specialized description to
a threshold such that the first user profile results in recommendations embracing a
range of target data that is narrower than the threshold, and

selectively generate recommendations of data selections for the first
user responsively to the first user profile and at least a second user profile
responsively to a result of comparing the level with the threshold.

12. (New) A method comprising:

receiving feedback from a first user regarding examples falling into various
data-classes;

defining a first specialized description of the first user's preferences that
includes only each data-class for which the first user provides positive feedback; and

expanding the specialized description of the first user's description by
including only data-classes for which a second user has provided positive feedback.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein

the data-classes for which the second user has provided positive feedback are
included in a second specialized description of the second user's preferences.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, including

defining a first general description of the first user's preferences by excluding
each data-class for which the first user provides negative feedback; and

selecting the examples from an intersection of the first general description and
the second specialized descriptions.

15. (New) The method of claim 12, including

defining a first general description of the first user's preferences by excluding each data-class for which the first user provides negative feedback; and
selecting the examples from the first general description.

16. (New) The method of claim 12, including

defining a first general description of the first user's preferences by excluding each data-class for which the first user provides negative feedback; and
selecting the examples from an intersection of the first general description and a union of a plurality of other specialized descriptions.

18. (New) A method comprising:

receiving feedback from a first user regarding examples falling into various data-classes;

defining a first specialized description of the first user's preferences that includes only each data-class for which the first user provides positive feedback;

defining a first general description of the first user's preferences by excluding each data-class for which the first user provides negative feedback; and

expanding the specialized description of the first user's description by including only data-classes from an intersection of the first general description and one or more second specialized description.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein

at least one of the second specialized descriptions includes only data-classes for which one or more other users have provided positive feedback.

20. (New) The method of claim 18, including

identifying an archetypal user class associated with the user;
wherein at least one of the second specialized descriptions includes only data-classes that are identified as being favorable to the archetypal user class.

21. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein

expanding the specialized description includes determining an intersection of the first general description with a union of the first specialized description and the one or more second specialized descriptions.

22. (New) The method of claim 18, including

selecting the examples from the first generalized description.

23. (New) The method of claim 18, including

selecting the examples from an intersection of the first generalized description and the one or more second specialized descriptions.